

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/657,707

Examiner

Christopher Boswell

Applicant(s)

ILEA ET AL.

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the examiner's amendment filed concurrently.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4-8, 10-13 and 15-45.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
 5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
 7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
 8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
 9. ☐ Other _____
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Hunt on October 3, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 24, line 2, replaced "a housing;" with --a housing having a tubular mount extending into the housing interior--.

In Claim 24, lines 6-7, replaced "a worm gear, in meshing engagement with the worm, and being mounted in the housing for rotation about an axis substantially orthogonal to the worm axis;" with -- a worm gear, in meshing engagement with the worm, and being rotatably mounted in the housing on the tubular mount for rotation about an axis substantially orthogonal to the worm axis;--.

In Claim 26, lines 1-3, replaced "The device of claim 24, wherein the housing comprises an injection-molded plastic tubular mount extending into the housing interior with the gear being rotatably mounted thereon." with --The device of claim 24, wherein the tubular mount is injection-molded plastic and the mount extends into the housing interior.--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that of a device to release a latch having a housing having a recessed region and a tubular mount extending from the center of the recessed region, an electric motor, a worm, a worm gear, in meshing engagement with the worm and rotatably mounted to the tubular mount, a camshaft mounted on the worm gear, the camshaft having a distal end extending to the exterior of the housing a cam affixed at the distal end of the camshaft, where the work gear is biased against the rotation by a spring connected between the gear and the housing.

The closest prior art of record, U.S. Patent Number 6,698,805 to Erices et al., discloses a device to release a latch having a housing having a recessed region, an electric motor, a worm, a worm gear, in meshing engagement with the worm, a camshaft mounted on the worm gear, the camshaft having a distal end extending to the exterior of the housing a cam affixed at the distal end of the camshaft. However, Erices et al. does not disclose a tubular mount extending from the center of the recessed region, and a spring connected between the gear and the housing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Boswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-7054. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on (571) 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Christopher Boswell
Examiner
Art Unit 3676

CJB *CB*
October 3, 2006


BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER